



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

January 18, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan is prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWSCAST 1: SINKING OIL PRICES: WINNERS AND LOSERS



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/oil-winners-losers-2016-1.3400071>

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Have you noticed an increase in prices in things you buy in your daily life? If yes, which items are more expensive? Have you noticed a decrease in the cost of things you buy in your daily life? If yes, which items are less expensive?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

Look at the following words and their meanings before listening to the news story.

economists	an expert in economics
record	the sum of past actions
predicting	saying or estimating something will happen in the future
sink	to go down below the surface; drop
gloomy	dark or poorly lit; depressing or frightening
slump	a sudden or severe fall in price; a drop, crash, or nosedive
savings	the money one has saved
reductions	something that is made smaller or less in size or amount
pass along	to transmit information; to tell someone something
translate	move from one place or another; express words in another language
impact on	have a strong effect on something or someone
fallout	The adverse side effects or results of a situation
rely upon	to need the help and support of someone or something to succeed
economy	the money and resources of a country; production and consumption of goods and services

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the first news story once for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to the first news story again. While you listen, fill in the blanks below with the word you hear. You may need to listen again in order to complete the exercise.

Some _____ are predicting record-low oil prices could _____ even deeper in 2016. While this paints a gloomy picture for the Canadian economy, an oil _____ can bring big savings to some.

According to the International Air Transport Association, _____ in the cost of jet fuel saved the world's airlines \$89 billion US in 2015. Canada's two major airlines — Air Canada and WestJet — both reported _____ traffic and profit in 2015. Some of those _____ are being passed along to travelers.

Low oil prices also _____ into savings at the pump. Gas costs less than \$1 per litre across most of Canada right now. The Canadian auto industry, which set a _____ for new vehicle sales in 2015, is also profiting.

While there are some savings, the economic _____ has had a negative _____ on the many countries that rely upon oil and gas as a major contributor to their _____. Russia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Saudi Arabia are all in trouble. It also means Canada is in trouble, especially our oil-dependent provinces.

(See answer key)

LANGUAGE FOCUS ACTIVITY

Read the news story above. Look at the use of simple present, present continuous, simple past, and present perfect tenses.

POST QUESTIONS

How has the economic fallout impacted you? Are you worried about the future? Why or why not?

NEWSCAST 2: DOLCE & GABBANA'S NEW HIJAB COLLECTION PROMPTED SOME MUSLIM WOMEN TO CHEER AND OTHERS TO SCOFF



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/trending/dolce-gabbana-s-new-hijab-collection-hailed-as-a-smart-move-financially-1.3396498>

WARM UP QUESTIONS

Are you familiar with Dolce & Gabbana? If you have a fashion magazine, look through it and find a Dolce & Gabbana advertisement. Then describe what D&G is advertising in the photo. Do you like fashion? Why or why not? Now, look at the title of this news story. What do you think scoff might mean?

Scoff -

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the second news story once for overall comprehension. Try to write down the words that you hear that you do not understand in the space below.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Now look at the meanings of the words below before you listen to the news story again. Knowing these words will help you to understand the news story.

fashionista (noun)	a devoted follower of fashion
swooning (verb)	to be overwhelmed by ecstatic joy
first-ever (adjective)	never happened or been experienced before
hijab (noun)	a head covering worn in public by some Muslim women
abaya (noun)	a full-length, sleeveless outer garment worn by some Muslim women
collection (noun)	a range of new clothes produced by a fashion designer; a group of things or people
stoked (verb-past tense)	to be excited or thrilled
high-fashion (adjective)	a term used to describe the newest fashions that are exclusive, made of quality materials, and expensive.
blog (noun)	a regularly updated web page that is typically run by an individual that is written in an informal or conversational style
cool (adjective)	fashionably attractive or impressive
extending (verb)	to offer or make available
brands (noun)	a type of product manufactured by a particular company
catering (verb)	to provide or supply what is desired; to try to satisfy a particular need or demand
exploiting (verb)	make full use of and benefit from; to capitalize on; benefit from
torrents (adjective)	an outpouring of; an outburst of; a flood of
fans (noun-plural)	people that have a strong interest in or admiration for a particular person or thing
raving (verb)	to speak or write about something with great enthusiasm or admiration
glam (adjective)	short form for glamorous
launched (verb-past tense)	to start or set in motion
globally/universally (adverbs)	involving the entire world/universe

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to the first news story again. While you listen, fill in the blanks below with the word you hear. You may need to listen again in order to complete the exercise.

Italian luxury brand Dolce & Gabbana had internet _____ swooning this week with its _____ - _____ hijab and abaya collection. Actual Muslim women were not universally _____ by the high-fashion hijabs.

Amani Al-Khatahtbeh, editor-in-chief of the fashion _____ MuslimGirl.net said, "It's really _____ that a major designer is extending its _____ to Muslim clothing items, but are brands finally catering to Muslim women, or are they _____ them?"

Despite _____ the brand has received for its new collection, _____ of fans can still be found all over the web _____ about D&G's glam abayas and hijabs.

Some believe that money might be the reason D&G _____ a line geared towards Middle Eastern women. According to a piece published by Fortune in July, Muslim women spent \$266 billion US globally on clothing and _____ in 2013 alone – a figure that is expected to almost double by 2019.

(see answer key)

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

Fill in the blanks below with the correct word.

launched	fans	cool	fashionista	swooning
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1. She is known by her peers to be a _____ as she loves fashion and follows many designers on Instagram.
2. I love his new sneakers! They are so _____!
3. Many people were _____ over the latest collection by Dolce & Gabanna at the Italian fashion week.
4. David Bowie's death upset his _____. Many of them shared their favourite memories of him and the songs they loved most on social media.
5. Ralph Lauren _____ his new collection at the Italian fashion week held in Florence.

(see answer key)

LANGUAGE FOCUS: LEARN TO TALK FASHION

There are many words used to describe fashion. Fashion writers are always trying to think of unique ways to describe their clothing and magazines are full of phrases and expressions. Below is a list of words and expressions to describe fashion.

stylish/fashionable = wearing clothing that is popular now John is so stylish! He must like fashion as he keeps up with the latest trends.
Chic = the same as 'fashionable' or 'stylish', but it is French and when we think of France, we think of fashion. It is pronounced "sheek". Have you seen Mary's chic new jacket?
Latest = newest, most recent Do you have the latest edition of Vogue yet?
In =popular, fashionable; short for 'in style' Leggings are very in this season.
Hot = a clothing item or accessory that is wanted; everybody has to have it The new Prada boots are so hot that all of the stores are sold out of them. The only way to get them is to order them online
Trendy =what everyone is wearing right now; a new and popular style Many people like to see what celebrities are wearing as they often wear trendy clothes.
Must-have = something you must absolutely have! This handbag with fringes is this season's must-have accessory!
Essential = necessary, important, a must-have item Flare magazine has a great section on winter's essential boots and jackets.
Vintage =old, but high quality and valuable; the item may have been worn before by someone else I hear that due to the economic crisis, there is an increase in vintage jewelry and accessories to be found.
Iconic =famous, memorable, representing a certain time and place David Bowie will be remembered for his iconic fashion statements in the 1980s.
Timeless = something that is still beautiful no matter how much time passes, no matter what the current trends or styles are Grace Kelly wore a beautiful, timeless gown on her wedding day. On the other hand,

Princess Diana's dress was not timeless. When you see a picture of the dress, you know immediately she was married in the 1980s!

Classic

=traditional, always fashionable/stylish, popular for a long time

Ralph Lauren has put his unique touch on the classic little black dress.

Fave

=informal, slang, short for 'favourite'

This dress is my fave to wear on a summer day.

Reference: www.englishteachermelanie.com

LANGUAGE FOCUS: CONFUSING ENGLISH VERBS – TO WEAR / TO DRESS

TO WEAR

= to have clothes on your body

You wear clothes

Examples:

- What are you wearing today?
- I'm going to wear my new shoes tomorrow.
- He wore a tie yesterday.
- I haven't worn this dress in ages (=in a long time)

TO DRESS

= to put clothes on yourself or someone else

After you dress yourself, you are wearing clothes

Examples:

- It's cold outside so dress warmly! (= put on warm clothing)
- I always dress to impress. (She likes to wear stylish clothing.)

Dressed as an adjective. It means wearing clothes.

Examples:

- We are dressed in vintage gowns.
- We are dressed for success.
- She is always well-dressed.
- I'm not dressed for the cold weather.

Get Dressed = put clothes on (yourself); this is more common and less formal than dress.

Examples:

- Aren't you dressed yet? Hurry up and get dressed!
- I didn't get dressed until after lunch today!
- In the morning I wake up, shower, get dressed, and then make coffee.

Reference: www.englishteachermelanie.com

NEWSCAST 3: \$1.6B POWERBALL LOTTERY WINNING TICKETS SOLD IN THREE STATES



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/powerball-record-draw-1.3403142>

WARM UP

Do you buy lottery tickets regularly? Why or why not? Do you sometimes dream of winning the lottery?

LISTENING ACTIVITY

Listen to the second news story. While you listen, follow along with the text below. Underline or highlight the words you do not understand.

At least three winning tickets were sold in a record \$1.6 billion US lottery Powerball drawing. A lottery official stated the winning tickets were purchased in Florida, Tennessee, and Los Angeles. The winning numbers were 4-8-19-27-34 and Powerball 10.

Alex Traverso, a spokesperson for the state's lottery announced, one winning ticket was sold at a 7-Eleven in Chino Hills, California. The Chino Hills store immediately became a wildly popular gathering spot in the usually quiet Los Angeles suburb. Many chanted, "Chino Hills! Chino Hills!" in celebration of their city. Some took selfies with the store clerk on duty.

Traverso said the 7-Eleven will get a \$1 million bonus for selling the winning ticket. Winners have to pay 39.6 per cent of the prize in federal income taxes, in addition to any state taxes. The identity of the winners is unknown at this point.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

Make a list of the words you underlined in the previous activity and look up their definitions. Some words have multiple meanings. Try to choose the definition that best describes how the word is used in the story.

WORD	DEFINITION

If you are in a classroom setting, compare your list and definitions with a colleague.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The family in Tennessee that had one of the three winning tickets announced publicly on the NBC “Today” television show that they had won before filing their claim with the lottery board. Lottery officials were shocked and said it put the lottery ticket and family at risk. They won a total of \$328 million after taxes.

1. What do you think of this story? Do you think they put themselves at risk?
2. What would you do if you won \$100 million dollars?

Discuss with a friend or a colleague.

THE LOTTERY TICKET JOKE

John, who was in financial difficulty, walked into a church and started to pray. “Listen God,” John said. “I know I haven’t been perfect but I really need to win the lottery. I don’t have a lot of money. Please help me out.” He left the church, a week went by, and he hadn’t won the lottery so he walked into a synagogue. “Come on, God, he said. “I really need this money. My mom needs surgery and I have bills to pay. Please let me win the lottery.” He left the synagogue, a week went by, and he didn’t win the lottery. So he went to a mosque and started to pray again. “You’re starting to disappoint me, God,” he said. “I’ve prayed and prayed. If you just let me win the lottery, I’ll be a better person. I don’t have to win the jackpot, just enough to get me out of debt. I’ll even give some to charity. Just let me win the lottery.” John thought this did it, so he got up and walked outside. The clouds opened up and a booming voice said, “John, buy a ticket! I can’t help you if you don’t buy a ticket!”

Adapted from www.jokes.cc.com

For speaking practice, try to tell this joke to a friend or colleague in English.

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of January 18th.	0:00
Newscast 1 <i>Sinking Oil Prices: Winners And Losers</i>	<p>Some economists are predicting record-low oil prices could sink even deeper in 2016. While this paints a gloomy picture for the Canadian economy, an oil slump can bring big savings to some.</p> <p>According to the International Air Transport Association, reductions in the cost of jet fuel saved the world's airlines \$89 billion US in 2015. Canada's two major airlines — Air Canada and WestJet — both reported increased traffic and profit in 2015. Some of those savings are being passed along to travelers.</p> <p>Low oil prices also translate into savings at the pump. Gas costs less than \$1 per litre across most of Canada right now. The Canadian auto industry, which set a record for new vehicle sales in 2015, is also profiting.</p> <p>While there are some savings, the economic fallout has had a negative impact on the many countries that rely upon oil and gas as a major contributor to their economy. Russia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Saudi Arabia are all in trouble. It also means Canada is in trouble, especially our oil-dependent provinces.</p>	0:09

<p>Newscast 2</p> <p><i>Dolce & Gabanna's New Hijab Collection Prompted Some Muslim Women To Cheer And Others To Scoff</i></p>	<p>Italian luxury brand Dolce & Gabbana had internet fashionistas swooning this week with its first-ever hijab and abaya collection. Actual Muslim women were not universally stoked by the high-fashion hijabs.</p> <p>Amani Al-Khatahtbeh, editor-in-chief of the fashion blog MuslimGirl.net said, "It's really cool that a major designer is extending its tastes to Muslim clothing items, but are brands finally catering to Muslim women, or are they exploiting them?"</p> <p>Despite criticism the brand has received for its new collection, torrents of fans can still be found all over the web raving about D&G's glam abayas and hijabs.</p> <p>Some believe that money might be the reason D&G launched a line geared towards Middle Eastern women. According to a piece published by Fortune in July, Muslim women spent \$266 billion US globally on clothing and footwear in 2013 alone – a figure that is expected to almost double by 2019.</p>	<p>1:37</p>
<p>Newscast 3</p> <p><i>\$1.6B Powerball Lottery Winning Tickets Sold In Three States</i></p>	<p>At least three winning tickets were sold in a record \$1.6 billion US lottery Powerball drawing. A lottery official stated the winning tickets were purchased in Florida, Tennessee, and Los Angeles. The winning numbers were 4-8-19-27-34 and Powerball 10.</p> <p>Alex Traverso, a spokesperson for the state's lottery announced, one winning ticket was sold at a 7-Eleven in Chino Hills, California. The Chino Hills store immediately became a wildly popular gathering spot in the usually quiet Los Angeles suburb. Many chanted, "Chino Hills! Chino Hills!" in celebration of their city. Some took selfies with the store clerk on duty.</p> <p>Traverso said the 7-Eleven will get a \$1 million bonus for selling the winning ticket. Winners have to pay 39.6 per cent of the prize in federal income taxes, in addition to any state taxes. The identity of the winners is unknown at this point.</p>	<p>2:54</p>

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Some **economists** are predicting record-low oil prices could **sink** even deeper in 2016. While this paints a gloomy picture for the Canadian economy, an oil **slump** can bring big savings to some.

According to the International Air Transport Association, **reductions** in the cost of jet fuel saved the world's airlines \$89 billion US in 2015. Canada's two major airlines — Air Canada and WestJet — both reported **increased** traffic and profit in 2015. Some of those **savings** are being passed along to travelers.

Low oil prices also **translate** into savings at the pump. Gas costs less than \$1 per litre across most of Canada right now. The Canadian auto industry, which set a **record** for new vehicle sales in 2015, is also profiting.

While there are some savings, the economic **fallout** has had a negative **impact** on the many countries that rely upon oil and gas as a major contributor to their **economy**. Russia, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Saudi Arabia are all in trouble. It also means Canada is in trouble, especially our oil-dependent provinces.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2

WARM UP

Scoff – speak about something in a scornfully dismissive or mocking way.

Synonyms: mock, make fun of, scorn, belittle

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Italian luxury brand Dolce & Gabbana had internet **fashionistas** swooning this week with its **first-ever** hijab and abaya collection. Actual Muslim women were not universally **stoked** by the high-fashion hijabs.

Amani Al-Khatahtbeh, editor-in-chief of the fashion **blog** MuslimGirl.net said, "It's really **cool** that a major designer is extending its **tastes** to Muslim clothing items, but are brands finally catering to Muslim women, or are they **exploiting** them?"

Despite **criticism** the brand has received for its new collection, **torrents** of fans can still be found all over the web **raving** about D&G's glam abayas and hijabs.

Some believe that money might be the reason D&G **launched** a line geared towards Middle Eastern women. According to a piece published by Fortune in July, Muslim women spent \$266 billion US globally on clothing and **footwear** in 2013 alone – a figure that is expected to almost double by 2019.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 2

1. She is known by her peers to be a **fashionista** as she loves fashion and follows many designers on Instagram.
2. I love his new sneakers! They are so **cool**!
3. Many people were **swooning** over the latest collection by Dolce & Gabanna at the Italian fashion week.
4. David Bowie's death upset his **fans**. Many of them shared their favourite memories of him and the songs they loved most on social media.
5. Ralph Lauren **launched** his new collection at the Italian fashion week held in Florence.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3

No key as answers will vary.

If you have any questions, comments or feedback regarding this lesson plan, please do not hesitate to contact Communication4Integration by email at info@communication4integration.ca